

operational risk and the potential for grounding of the entire fleet if a glitch is found. The F-136 prevents this troubling scenario.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11th in the global war on terrorism.

AMERICAN JOBS AND CLOSING TAX LOOPHOLES ACT

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, this week the House will consider the American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act. This legislation is another step in our efforts to create jobs and keep our economic recovery on track. The bill will help communities build schools, roads, and other important infrastructure projects putting people to work now.

In my district, we will see benefits in places like Los Osos and El Rio, which have long been in need of sewer systems. The Build America Bonds program extended in the bill will help advance clean energy efforts like geothermal power projects that will provide electricity for Santa Barbara County.

Mr. Speaker, our economy is still in very rough shape, a result of the reckless actions on Wall Street and little to no oversight by the previous administration. But we are making progress.

Last month, the economy created nearly 300,000 new jobs, a stark turnaround from the 700,000 jobs being lost at the end of the Bush administration. This change comes in large part because of the tough, smart choices we have made to cut taxes and invest in our people. The legislation coming up this week is another of these efforts to keep us on the road to full recovery.

I hope all my colleagues will help support this bill and help build a stronger America.

TRIBUTE TO SPECIALIST GRANT WICHMANN, U.S. ARMY

(Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, there are many heroes from Colorado who have fought and continue to fight in the global war on terror. Today, I rise to pay tribute to one hero in particular: United States Army Specialist Grant Wichmann of Golden, Colorado.

Specialist Grant Wichmann graduated from Golden High School, where he was an athlete, avid soccer player, and a snowboarder. Although one of his friends had been killed serving in Iraq, at the age of 24 he enlisted in the United States Army. When his father tried to talk him out of enlisting, Specialist Grant Wichmann said he could not sit by while others die protecting him. This is a true indication of the

kind of courage Grant Wichmann possessed.

On March 12, 2010, while assigned to combat outpost Bari Alai, Afghanistan, Specialist Grant Wichmann's unit was attacked by enemy forces using small arms fire. During the engagement, Specialist Grant Wichmann was gravely wounded and ultimately succumbed to his injuries while at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

Specialist Grant Wichmann is a shining example of the United States Army service and sacrifice. As a former member of the United States Army and as a retired Marine Corps Reserve officer, my deepest sympathies go out to his family and all who knew him.

DEFENSE REAUTHORIZATION BILL

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. Ladies and gentlemen, we will soon bring to the floor a defense authorization bill that invests in our most important security needs: disrupting terrorists networks, countering nuclear proliferation, strengthening international cooperation to defeat the Taliban, preparing the Iraqi Government to stand on its own, and investing in the needs of our troops and their families.

This bill builds on Democrats' strong defense record. Under President Obama, we have killed or captured some of the highest ranking leaders in al Qaeda—many more than we did under the last administration—and the Taliban; laid out a clear way forward in Afghanistan; disrupted terrorism with the full resources of our intelligence community and justice system; and increased funding for human intelligence collection, cybersecurity, and security for our skies, our ports, and our borders.

This bill offers us a chance to improve on the flawed record of the Bush administration, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

CONGRESS' FAILURE TO PASS A BUDGET

(Mr. KLINE of Minnesota asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KLINE of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, across the country, countless families and small business owners are making the tough decisions needed to weather this difficult economy. Many may have hoped to put off for another day the choices they were forced to make, but the American people realize the path to renewing our economic prosperity comes through courage and sacrifice. They also realize the difficult work must start today.

It is a dereliction of public duty for this Congress to deliberately fail to pass a budget. More than a year ago, the American people ignited a national

debate about the future they see for the country. They have demanded that Washington get spending under control and spend taxpayer money wisely. It is shameful that here in the people's House, the Democrat majority's avoiding that same debate. We are failing our children by failing to produce a budget. It is time to get our priorities straight and our fiscal house in order.

Mr. Speaker, let's join this debate taking place around the country and begin to make the tough choices the American people expect from their leaders.

“YOU CUT” OR “CUT YOU”?

(Mr. HASTINGS of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, if you tuned in to last week's episode of YouCut, then you may recall that Republicans resorted to a legislative trick in an attempt to cut much needed funding from the Temporary Aid to Needy Families program. This cut would have been another break for the rich at the expense of the poor instead of providing financial support, job training, and child care subsidies to lower-income families with children. Fortunately, this measure was defeated.

This week, Republicans seek to stall the important business of the House yet again with a new list of proposed cuts.

While the YouCut program has been touted by Republicans as a partnership with the American people, a more fitting name for the program would be “CutYou,” because it can hurt everyday Americans while doing little to cut the Federal deficit.

What Republicans fail to mention is that the YouCut program is inherently selective and, therefore, biased. Neither online nor cell phone voters are able to vote to save a program rather than cut it. Further, the YouCut program conveniently targets only those who have Internet access and cell phones, which disproportionately leaves out both the poor and the elderly.

I will talk a little bit more about “CutYou” later on this evening.

COMMENTS ABOUT SPENDING

(Mr. WITTMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, folks in America's First District have a lot to say about spending, the debt, and the deficit, and I'd like to share their comments.

Chris from Warrenton says, Please cut Federal spending. This issue can't be put off any longer. It's not time for us to be able to afford these fancy Federal programs, and we have to get on the track of reducing spending now.